

THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHISM

The historian to-day can merely strain after a *via media*, guided by the statements of the men who, for one cause or another, seem on either side the least open to suspicion of deliberate falsification.

A vast and clamorous crowd, partly armed, filled the piazza and surged round the Vatican, shouting : " Give us a Roman or at least an Italian Pope " ; as the princes of the Church, one by one, made their way with difficulty into the palace, under the protection of the Senator. The rooms destined for the conclave were on the first floor, but a number of Romans seem to have pressed in after the cardinals and their attendants, and to have thronged the courtyard, probably continuing the threats that had been shouted in the square. The Romans had deputed Giovanni Cenci, chancellor of the city, Nardo di Giorgio, and others of their leaders, to guard the conclave; while, on the side of the cardinals, a similar Function was assigned to Guillaume de la Voulte, Bishop of Marseilles, and the Bishops of Todi and Tivoli. Before the conclave was closed, the heads of the thirteen Rioni, with other Romans, came to the cardinals, and, respectfully at first, but afterwards with warnings of the consequences of a refusal, demanded that a Roman or an Italian should be elected to the papacy. The Cardinal of Florence, as dean of the cardinal bishops, answered that they would do what should be pleasing to God, useful for the Church, and honourable for the city. Aigrefeuille and Orsini, deans of the cardinal priests and cardinal deacons respectively, warned them that any interference would invalidate the election. All during the night, a great uproar continued in the piazza; according to the Urbanists, it was mere lighthearted singing and merry-making, with a wonderful absence of the slightest sinister element; according to the Clementines, it was the clamour of a furious mob,

//. *Script.*, iii. 2), and of Bishop Niccolò of Viterbo, recently published by Pastor (*Acta Inedita*, document 3), on the one side, are as untrustworthy as the solemn testimonies of the cardinals themselves, so sedulously collected by the Abbé Gayet, on the other. M. Noel Valois, *La France et le Grand Schisme d'Occident*, I. pp. 35-83, is judicious and impartial.